

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #  
42-21

USGS Quad  
Whitman

Area

Form #  
15

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town **Hanson**

Place **South Hanson**

Address **0 High Street**

Historic Name **Keene House**

Use: Present **residence**

Original **residence**

Date **before 1830; c. 1821**

Source **maps & White's Houses**

Style/Form **Federal/cape**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **granite**

Wall/Trim **shingle**

Roof **wood shingles**

Outbuildings **carriage house**

Major Alterations **none**

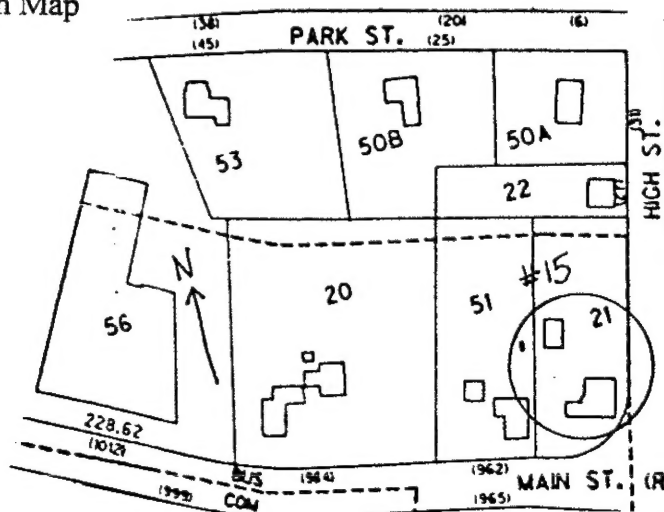
Condition **good**

Moved **no**

Acreage **21, 780 sq. ft.**

Setting **village**

Sketch Map



Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical  
Commission**

Date **April 1996**

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Keene House at 0 High Street is a modest, well-preserved, one-and-one-half story Cape in the Federal style. The Cape Cod house was especially popular in Hanson in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The five-bay wide by double-pile deep cape exhibits a number of characteristic features. These include the large center chimney and a small, one-story rear service ell. The original masses remain remarkably unaltered with the exception of the insertion of a modern oriel on the left-side elevation at the second pile. Characteristic of the Federal style, decorative detailing accents window and door openings and the building's edges. The Keene House detailing includes a narrow entablature and molded pilasters around the front door, a boxed cornice, thin corner boards, and a narrow, flat hood above the windows. A dilapidated gabled carriage house is located to the north of the house at the rear of the property. The house is located on the corner of a heavily trafficked intersection near South Hanson's early twentieth-century commercial and industrial center.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

South Hanson, near the intersection of High and Main Streets, is extensively developed with mostly late nineteenth-century houses and early twentieth-century industrial and commercial structures. The Keene House considerably predates all of this development. Joseph White indicates that the house was constructed in 1821 by Ebenezer Keene, replacing an earlier house located on the property that was used and occupied by Alexander Soper as a tavern in the late eighteenth century. Historic maps identify Ebenezer Keen [sic], Jr. as the owner by 1830. Keene's extensive property holdings in 1834 included 13 acres of QM, 8 acres of tillage, 25 acres of cleared pasture, 28 acres of brush land, 8 acres of fresh mowing and 31 acres of cedar swamp. His comparatively sizable livestock holdings included 1 horse, 1 yoke oxen, 4 cows, 1 yearling, 10 sheep and 2 swine. The house remained in the Keene family through at least the first third of the twentieth century. By 1879 William Keene, a laborer, is the identified owner, who continued to own the house into the early twentieth century.

## REFERENCES

Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830  
Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856

New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 1879

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Community  
**Hanson**

Property Address  
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## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.